

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office Action dated August 24, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 1-4, 7-32, and 50-67. The Examiner made the rejections of claims 33-35 and 43-45 final over Barada *et al.*, in view of Ueyama. Claims 36-42 and 46-49 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim.

By this paper, claim 36 has been cancelled. Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 36, thus rendering claims 33-35 and 43-45 allowable. Claims 37-42 were amended to change their dependency. The Applicant believes that these amendments render claims 33-35 and 43-45 allowable, and thus presents claims 1-4, 7-35, and 37-67 for consideration by the Examiner.

#### **35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection**

Claims 33-35 and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barada in view of Ueyama. By this paper, in order to forward the prosecution of this application, allowed claim 36 has been cancelled, and its limitations have been written into claim 33. The Examiner stated in the Office Action that claims 1-32 and 50-67 are allowable because: The prior art(s) of record does not disclose storing a plurality of axial displacements output over a period of time, recalling the displacements from memory for estimating a sensor offset using the stored displacement outputs.

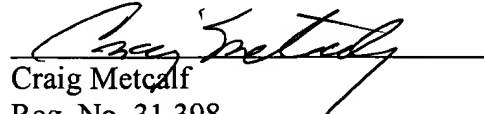
Office Action, p. 4.

As amended, claim 36 includes the limitations of “an axial displacement sensor” used to “store a plurality of received displacement outputs over a period of time,” and “adjust[ing] said displacement output to account for a sensor offset estimated from said received displacement outputs, producing an adjusted displacement output.” Claim 33, *supra*. The Applicant asserts that having incorporated allowed claim 36 into claim 33 from which it was dependent, claims 33-35 and 43-45 are allowable. The Applicant thus requests the withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of claims 33-35 and 43-45.

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Amdt. dated November 23, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2004

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Craig Metcalf  
Reg. No. 31,398  
Attorney for Applicants

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MADSON & METCALF  
Gateway Tower West  
15 West South Temple, Suite 900  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101  
Telephone: 801/537-1700